

Security Council

The Ukraine war

Forum:	Security Council
Issue:	The Ukraine war
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Introduction

The war in the region of Ukraine has been going on since the year 2022, but the bigger conflict has been going on since 2014. The tension between the countries of Russia and Ukraine has been rising over the years. It started with Russia's annexation of Crimea, a peninsula in Eastern Europe. Threats between the two areas building, until the invasion of Russia in the early months of 2022. Now, in 2025, around a fifth of Ukraine has been taken over by the Russians.

This research report will try to give you more insight on the topic and the issues around it. Aiming to prepare the delegates for the upcoming conference and hoping for a weekend filled with fruitful debates.

Key Terms

Euromaidan

The Euromaidan was a series of protests that occurred from 2013 till 2014. They took place on the square of Independence, Maiden. That is where the name came from. The reasoning for the demonstrations was wanting closer ties to the EU. It started as peaceful protests against the decision of the then president of Ukraine. The government tried to stop them, in response the crowd only grew and turned into the Revolution of Dignity. Those who remained on the square risked facing unlawful arrest, kidnapping, assault, and loss of their jobs. On January 16th of 2014, the government implemented a new law restricting the right of demonstrating. On January 22 the first protesters were killed.

POWs.

POW is the abbreviation of Prisoners of War. Meaning people who were captured as a result of conflict. Usually referring to armed forces but can also be guerillas and civilians who openly take arms against the enemy or non-combats associated with a military force.

The Revolution of Dignity

The Revolution of Dignity was a result of the Euromaidan. It overthrew the pro Russian regime, and it marks a shift towards closer relations with integration in Europe and away from the Russian influence.

General Overview

Background

As mentioned before, the war is a result of years of build up tension between the two main involved countries. In 2013 Ukraine was in chaos due to the Euromaidan. The reason for this was a man called Viktor Janoekovytsj. He was the then pro-Russian president. He refused to sign the association agreement with the European Union. While many Ukrainian citizens wanted closer international ties with the west. After months of protests and the so-called Revolution of Dignity, Viktor Janoekovytsj was removed from his position as president. This did not fix the issue of chaos, especially in the east and west of the country, which is home to many Russian speakers.

Not long after this, in March of 2014 Russian troops forcefully took over Crimea. That action has been condemned by the international community as a violation of international law. In Ukraine itself an armed conflict also broke out. With Russia's backing, pro-Russian separatists proclaimed independence in the Donetsk and Luhansk areas. Millions of refugees and thousands of fatalities resulted from the armed war that broke out between Ukrainian forces and the separatists.

Current conflict

Towards the end of 2021, satellites and other sources showed heavy military equipment such as missiles and armour being moved towards Ukraine, with no reasoning coming from the Kremlin. Early 2022 new imaging showed the largest number of Russian forces to its Belarusian border since the end of the Cold War. On February 24, 2022, Russia started a large military attack on Ukraine, which greatly increased the conflict between the two countries. The attack came from numerous areas, including Belarus, the Crimea and Russian territory. Large Ukrainian cities such as Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Odessa were targeted. This attack accustomed airstrikes, missiles, and ground troops moving in, causing a lot of damage and many civilian deaths right away.

Russian leader Vladimir Putin said the reason for the attack was to “demilitarize and denazify” Ukraine. He claimed this meant removing Ukraine’s military power and fighting against what he called extremist groups in the Ukrainian government. He also said the aim of the raid was to protect Russian-speaking people in the east of Ukraine and stop Ukraine from joining Western military groups, which he perceived as a threat to his country. The international community, however, disagreed with these explanations.

The actions of the Russian government and troops were seen by most of the nations and international organisations as an unwarranted and unjustified act of aggression against a sovereign state. The invasion was denounced as a breach of international law, among other things the UN Charter, which forbids the force to undermine a state’s political independence or territorial integrity. Many countries called for an instantaneous ending to hostilities, imposing severe economic sanctions on Russia and offering assistance to Ukraine including humanitarian and military. The attack caused a large humanitarian crisis, with millions of people seeking refuge in either countries abroad or other areas of Ukraine itself. The conflict has led to an extensive destruction of infrastructure, ongoing instability in the region and the loss of many lives.

Major Parties Involved

Ukraine

One of the nations with the largest involvement is without a doubt Ukraine, with it being one of the sides of the conflict. It's Europe's second largest country, the first being Russia, located in the eastern part of the continent. The country has only been fully independent since the late 1900's. Before that it had been dominated by Poland-Lithuania, Russia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.). After the outbreak of the Ukrainian-Russian war, Ukraine has gotten a lot of support and assistance from other nations.

Russia

Russia is the other most involved nation in this issue, with them invading Ukraine at the start of 2022. The country is located geographically in the eastern part of Europe and also largely in Asia. It is by far the largest country in the world, being twice the size of the runner up Canada. After being known as the U.S.S.R. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Russia became an independent country in 1991 after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in December of that year. The country has, after their invasion, received a lot of sanctions from other nations with over 2400 individuals and entities sanctioned.

Unites States of America

The United States of America is one of the world's biggest economic powers when measured in GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Regarding the issue at hand, the USA has taken a significant role in trying to negotiate with both countries to achieve peace. Between the initial attack on February 24th of 2022 and March 2025 the US has provided Ukraine with about 66.9 billion dollars in military assistance. Even though they offered a lot of help, either financially, through materials or through negotiation, they did vote against the resolution of February 2025. As a response they proposed a resolution, to which France proposed amendments on behalf of European States. The last update, beginning of July 2025, is that the current president Donald Trump has not made progress with his plan for a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

Relations between Ukraine and NATO date back to the 1990s and have since then developed to one of the most substantial one of NATO's partnerships. Since the annexation of Crimea, NATO has intensified its cooperation in areas and since the invasion in 2022 has provided a lot of support and help. This organisation openly condemns Russia's actions against Ukraine, a country the NATO finds independent, peaceful, and democratic and a close partner to them.

Timeline of Key Events

March 2014	Russia's annexation of Crimea.
April 2014	Russian troops gather on the Eastern border of Ukraine, violence breaks out in the Eastern region, which has continued to this day.
September 2014	NATO confirms the entering of Russian troops in Eastern Ukraine.
May 2018	The now president of Russia Vladimir Putin officially opens a bridge linking Crimea and Russia. An act Ukraine deems illegal.
2021-2022	Putin tries to prevent Ukraine from drifting to the US and other allies. Wanting security guarantees and an agreement that Ukraine will never join NATO.
April 2021	Russia sends 100.000 troops to the Ukrainian border. Zelensky, the president of Ukraine, asks the NATO leadership to put the Ukrainian membership on a timeline. In response Putin says he will retreat the troops but tens of thousands remain.
November 2021	Russia renews troops on Ukrainian border.
24th of February 2022	Invasion of Russia in Ukraine, the largest military operation in Europe since the ending of the second World War.

UN Involvement and Other Treaties

- UN Security Council, 27th of February 2022 (S/RES/2623)

This resolution was adopted at the 8980th meeting in the beginning of 2022, quickly after the initial attack by Russia on Ukraine. It was the first time in four decades that the council adopted a “Uniting for Peace” resolution. It was adopted with eleven votes in favour, one against and three abstentions. The one against being Russia.

- UN General Assembly Draft Resolution L.10, 18th of February 2025 (A/ES-11/L.10) This resolution while reiterating its commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, reminded that its relevant resolutions, particularly the one demanding that the Russian Federation immediately, fully, and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from Ukraine's territory, must be fully implemented in response to the aggression against Ukraine. The United States voted against, alongside Russia, indicating a change in their standpoint.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue.

Due to the destructive nature of the attack, there have been plural attempts to solve the conflict. The first attempt was right after the initial attack in February 2022. This meeting was between Ukrainian and Russian officials in Belarus. But this and subsequent rounds in March of 2022 ended without result. In the same year in Turkey a draft agreement was nearly reached in which Ukraine would abandon the ambition to join NATO and accept military limits. In exchange for this they would get Western security. Before an agreement was reached the progress was halted over a disagreement over security guarantees and the discovery of atrocities in Bucha. After this, negotiations stalled for a while, until in 2025 under US leadership new diplomatic efforts were made. When the US's attempts faltered, the United Kingdom and France proposed a ceasefire. Some limited truces were agreed upon, but no comprehensive peace was achieved. Despite a lot of disagreement between the two parties, progress has been made regarding the humanitarian crisis with an exchange of POWs. To try to stop Russia from attacking further, the country has received numerous sanctions from other nations and the United Nations.

Possible Solutions

Tackling this issue will not be complicated, hopefully this research report gave enough insight to plant a seed in your mind for possible solutions.

Attempt to solve the issue

A starting point could be peaceful negotiating. This has already been tried and done but when taking small steps, eventually you can cover a vast area. The idea of a ceasefire could help these negotiations to have full focus. A ceasefire also allows time for victims of the war, in all affected areas, to get the help they need. This way this could be safely done, not putting people and for example doctors in more danger. If a ceasefire is implemented, measures do have to be taken by third parties to help and monitor the conditions of said ceasefire.

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